

Growing Up – The Adult Stage

Hmmm...

“A child becomes an adult when he realizes that he has a right not only to be right but also to be wrong.” Thomas S. Szasz

We all must grow up just as we all must change.

Growing is a process, just like change is a process

The process of change consists of revelation, change, conflict and growth

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping (perfecting, maturing) of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Review

When you don't know the intent of something you will abuse it.

You've got to grow up to be effective in ministry

All of us are called to help the rest of the body to grow up.

There is a similarity between physical development and spiritual development

Baby stage

Childhood stage

Adult stage

Baby Stage:

Babies need help

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Babies fall down

Babies are:

Innocent

Ignorant

Irritable

The Childhood Stage

1. Unsteadiness

2. Curiosity

3. Talkativeness

Evil Speaking, Vain Speaking

The adult stage

1. Esteeming earthy things lightly

Hebrews 11:24-26

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

It must be possible for a person to make decisions by faith according to the word of God. A mature believer will make decisions based on the word of God rather than on his circumstances

What's more important in your life? What's the priority? Cannot put earthly things above spiritual things and expect to grow spiritually.

One other way to look at it is that they are heavenly minded. They make decisions in light of eternity.

2. Deafness to criticism or praise

1 Corinthians 4:2-4

2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

3 But to me it is a very small thing that I may be examined by you, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself.

4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

Paul didn't let the opinion of others affect him (or the criticism of others)

He was on a mission

The law of love governed his life

1 Corinthians 13

Saul changed his name to Paul

Since you can't please everybody, you might as well please God

An immature Christian will take a complement and repeat it to everybody.

Hear it, be grateful for it, then flush it, otherwise you'll get puffed up.

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- Baby Christians are ever conscious of what everyone else is saying about them.
Can't sleep because of what someone MIGHT be saying about them.
Not self conscious, but GOD conscious.
Forgiving criticism, but recognizing that continued criticism may lead to a change in your relationship. Holy of Holies, Holy place, outer courts. You are still responsible with dealing with each in the love of God.
3. The ability to recognize when God is at work
Joseph is the best example of this.
Think about all the times that he could have gotten bitter!
Gen 45:5-7
5 "Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.
6 "For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.
7 "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.
When you know it's God, you can endure.
Why did Joseph have to go through all of this?
There is something in you that if left unchecked will ruin you and thus ruin the plan of God for you!
Also, faith has to be developed!!! Bicep won't grow unless
Don't be surprised when diverse trials (James)
You don't just get a good marriage, you have to work for it!

What stage are you in?